

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

4. AMIN IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS THE NATION TONIGHT AT 2000 (IN PUSHTU) AND 2030 (IN DARI), AFGHANS ARE WAITING FOR A NUMBER OF SIGNALS. FOR EXAMPLE, WILL AMIN CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE RESPECTFUL TONE TOWARD THE "ILL," DEPARTING "GREAT LEADER," NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI CHARACTERIZED BY THE SEPTEMBER 16 LEADERSHIP-CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT -- OR WILL HE ELECT TO BEGIN DENIGRATING THE "GREAT TEACHER," UNDER WHOM HE ONCE SERVED AS THE "HEROIC PUPIL" TARAKI RECEIVED THE USUAL "CULT-OF-INDIVIDUAL" PRESS STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 15, BUT SINCE SEPTEMBER 16 ONLY HIS NAME HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE MEDIA -- WITHOUT TITLES OR HONORIFIC PHRASES. AMIN'S DAUGHTER IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE TORN DOWN PICTURES OF TARAKI IN HER SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 16, AND TO HAVE DESCRIBED TARAKI AS A "BAD MAN."

5. WILL AMIN ANNOUNCE FURTHER CABINET CHANGES AMONG THOSE RUMORED TO BE ON THEIR WAY OUT -- EITHER TONIGHT OR IN COMING WEEKS -- BECAUSE OF PAST ANTI-AMIN TENDENCIES ARE: FINANCE MINISTER ABDUL KARIM MISAQ, PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER DAKTAGIR DARESH, AND TRANSPORT MINISTER MOHAMMAD HASSAN BARECSHAFIYEE (WHO INCIDENTLY, RANKED RIGHT BEHIND AMIN AND DEPOSED INTERIOR MINISTER MOHAMMAD ASLAM WATANJAR IN THE AIRPORT PARTY WELCOMING TARAKI HOME FROM HIS JOURNEY TO HAVANA AND MOSCOW ON SEPTEMBER [ILLEG]).

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POL
CKG
CHROM
ECOR
RF

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/CC; KARACHI FOR RSS; CINCPAC-ANT CINCPUR
ALSO FOR PCAD

TAGS: ~~PERT, FINE, SCOV, FINS, PLU, C, C~~

SUBJ: CLOW TENSION LESSENS IN KADOL AS PRESIDENT AMIN DIGESTS HIS RECENT POLITICAL GAINS

REF ID: A6914

14 (CONTAINING ENTIRE TEXT)

20. SUMMARY: KAEUL APPEARS TO BE LOSING SOME OF THE TENSION OF RECENT DAYS AS NEWLY NAMED PRESIDENT NAJIFULLAH AMIN CONSOLIDATES HIS CONTROL OVER THE PARTY APPARATUS AND THE GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY. (32)

3. AS OF 1600 HOURS, KABUL TIME, ON SEPTEMBER 17, THE POLITICAL TENSION OF RECENT DAYS APPEARS TO BE LESSENING IN KABUL. ALTHOUGH TANKS STILL GUARD KEY LOCATIONS AROUND THE ARG PALACE ("HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE") AND THE RADIO AFGHANISTAN COMPLEX, THE TANK CREWS ARE RELAXING IN THE SHADE BENEATH THEIR VEHICLES. GOVERNMENT OFFICES APPEAR TO BE RETURNING TO A NORMAL BUSINESS ROUTINE. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT NAFIZULLAH AMIN AND HIS FOLLOWERS SEEM TO STILL FIND IT PROUD TO PEER DOWN THE ROAD (ESPECIALLY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE PUL-I-CHARKI ARMORED CORPS BASE) FOR SOME TYPE OF MILITARY REACTION TO THEIR RECENT GOVERNMENTAL AND PARTY COURTS, THEY APPEAR TO BE BECOMING MORE CONFIDENT AS THE HOUR G PASSES WITHOUT CHALLENGE.

4. AMIN IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS THE NATION TONIGHT AT 2030 (IN PUSHTU) AND 2030 (IN DARI), AFGHANS ARE WAITING FOR A NUMBER OF SIGNALS. FOR EXAMPLE, WILL AMIN CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE RESPECTFUL TONE TOWARD THE "ILL," DEPARTING "GREAT LEADER," MOHAMMAD TARAKI CHARACTERIZED BY THE SEPTEMBER 16 LEADERSHIP-CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT -- OR WILL HE ELECT TO BEGIN DESIGNATING THE "GREAT TEACHER," UNDER WHOM HE ONCE SERVED AS THE "HEROIC PUPIL"? ~~AMIN RECEIVED THE USUAL "CULT-OF-INDIVIDUAL" PRESS TREATMENT ON SEPTEMBER 15, BUT SINCE SEPTEMBER 16 ONLY HIS NAME HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE MEDIA -- WITHOUT TITLES OR HONORIFIC PHRASES. AMIN'S DAUGHTER IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE TORN DOWN PICTURES OF TARAKI IN HER SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 16, AND TO HAVE DESCRIBED TARAKI AS A "BAD MAN."~~

5. WILL AMIN ANNOUNCE FURTHER CABINET CHANGES AMONG THOSE REPORTED TO BE ON THEIR WAY OUT -- EITHER TONIGHT OR IN COMING WEEKS -- BECAUSE OF PAST ANTI-AMIN TENDENCIES ARE: FINANCE MINISTER ABDUL KARIM NISAO, PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER DAKTARIS PAJSHIRI, MINES AND INDUSTRIES MINISTER MOHAMMAD ISMAIL DAWESH, AND TRANSPORT MINISTER MOHAMMAD HASSAN BAREGHAFIYEE (WHO, INCIDENTALLY, RANKED RIGHT BEHIND AMIN AND DEPOSED INTERIOR MINISTER MOHAMMAD ASLAM WATANJAR IN THE AIRPORT PARTY WELCOMING TARAKI HOME FROM HIS JOURNEY TO HAVANA AT 1100 ON SEPTEMBER 11).

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TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

6. WHAT HAPPENED TO TARAKI? MOST KABULIS WITH WHOM EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE SPOKEN SINCE YESTERDAY EVENING'S ANNOUNCEMENT THINK TARAKI IS ALREADY DEAD OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS, SUFFERED DURING THE PALACE GUNBATTLE THAT FELLEDED HIS BODYGUARD, THE INFAMOUS SAYED DAOUD TAROON, ON EITHER SEPTEMBER 14 OR 15 (THE EXACT DATE IS NOT YET CLEAR). IT COULD WELL BE THAT TARAKI AND TAROON WERE CAUGHT UP WILLY-NILLY IN THE VIOLENT EVENTS ATTENDING THE PURGE OF THE LAST MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, NOT HAVING BEEN SCHEDULED FOR ELIMINATION BY AMIN AT THIS TIME. THEIR TURN MIGHT HAVE BEEN FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD, ACCORDING TO AMIN'S TIMETABLE. ONCE THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF, HOWEVER, AMIN WOULD CHARACTERISTICALLY SEIZE IT QUICKLY. OTHERS QUESTION WHY AMIN WOULD THEN KEEP TARAKI'S DEATH SECRET WHEN HE DECLARED A MARTYR'S FUNERAL FOR TAROON ON SEPTEMBER 16. STILL OTHERS BELIEVE THAT TARAKI IS STILL ALIVE, BUT SINKING -- AND THAT HIS DEATH WILL EVENTUALLY BE ANNOUNCED BY THE REGIME.

7. DURING A SEPTEMBER 17 BUSINESS CALL ON ABDUL MAJID MANGAL, A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED TARAKI TO HAVANA AND MOSCOW, THE A/DOM COMMENTED THAT WESTERN DIPLOMATS HAD FOUND TARAKI HAPPY AND APPARENTLY HEALTHY UPON HIS RETURN TO KABUL SEPTEMBER 11. MANGAL OBSERVED THAT TARAKI MIGHT HAVE APPEARED TO BE HEALTHY, BUT THAT HE HAD SUFFERED SOME HEALTH PROBLEMS DURING THE TRIP. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT TARAKI HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A PHYSICIAN. MANGAL IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE LEARNING MORE ABOUT TARAKI'S "HEALTH PROBLEM" IN DUE COURSE -- PERHAPS EVEN DURING TONIGHT'S SPEECH BY AMIN. THE QUESTION IS FAST BECOMING MOOT, HOWEVER, THOUSANDS OF PICTURES OF TARAKI THAT HAD [ILLEG] KABUL HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED. THE DE FACTO PARTY AND GOVERNMENTAL LEADERSHIP AMIN HAS DISPLAYED SINCE THE REVOLUTION HAS NOW BECOME DE JURE. PEOPLE WONDER WHETHER AMIN, "THE AFGHAN STALIN," WILL PERMIT THE MEMORY OF THE "GREAT GENIUS LEADER" TO ENDURE.

8. THE SOVIET REACTION AT KABUL; AS INDICATED IN THE EMBASSY'S EARLIER REPORTING (KABUL 6874), IT IS NOT YET CLEAR, WHETHER THE SOVIET EMBASSY AT KABUL WAS PRIVY TO AMIN'S ANTI-WATAHJAR MOVE BEFORE IT WAS LAUNCHED. FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI -- IF THIS SURMISE IS TRUE, THE SOVIETS HAD, IN THE SHORT RUN, NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO RIDE OUT THE FAST-BREAKING CHAIN OF EVENTS. THE KABUL PRESS REPORTED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ALEXANDER M. PUZANOV CALLED ON AMIN AT 1000 ON SEPTEMBER 15. ONE OF OUR SOURCES TOLD US THAT THAT MEETING LASTED UNTIL NOON. GENERAL UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE RISING LEADER AND HIS VITAL SOVIET SUPPORTERS WERE PRESUMABLY REACHED AT THAT SESSION.

9. THE GENERAL IMPRESSION IN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND AMONG KNOWLEDGEABLE AFGHANS IS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT HAPPY -- BUT PROBABLY FIND THAT THEY HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE AT THIS TIME BUT TO SUPPORT THE AMBITIOUS AND RUTHLESS AMIN. HAVING ONCE REPORTEDLY BEEN ENGAGED IN AN EFFORT TO BROADEN

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

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THE POLITICAL BASE OF THE KABUL REGIME IN ORDER TO COUNTER BETTER THE INSURGENCY, THE SOVIETS NOW FIND THAT BASE EVEN MORE NARROWED -- SHARPENED TO A PENCIL POINT, AS IT WERE. THE SOVIETS WERE ALSO ONCE SAID TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE BLOODY-HANDED AMIN WAS THE PRIMARY IMAGE PROBLEM OF THE KHALQI REGIME (THE AVUNCULAR TARAKI HAD SOME POPULAR SUPPORT, EVEN AMONG SOME NON-KHALQI CIRCLES), AND WERE REPORTEDLY DETERMINED TO ELIMINATE HIM. NOW AMIN IS ALL THEY HAVE LEFT, UNTIL SOME OTHER VIABLE OPTION BECOMES AVAILABLE,

HE IS THE ONLY INSTRUMENT THROUGH WITH MOSCOW CAN DEFEND A "FRATERNAL PARTY" AND SAVE A "PROGRESSIVE REVOLUTION," IDEOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH LOCAL SOVIETS STRONGLY PROFESS.

12. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ACCEPTING THIS SITUATION WITH GOOD GRACE, HOWEVER, ON SEPTEMBER 17, A JUNIOR SOVIET DIPLOMAT GRUMBLED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE KHALAQIS ARE A MISTAKE IN "TRYING TO DO TOO MANY THINGS TOO FAST". HE THOUGHT THE REGIME SHOULD HAVE TAKEN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS TO EFFECT WHAT THEY TRIED TO ACCOMPLISH IN A FEW MONTHS. THE SOVIET MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE KHALAQIS HAD FAILED.

SECRET
100-100000
100-100000
100-100000

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUHRO/SECSTATE LACONC 100-100000 5014
INFO RUHRO/AMEMBASSY KANAKA PRIORITY 3727
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 3747
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY LACONC PRIORITY 3755
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY ISLA/AFAD PRIORITY 5311
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY JEDNA PRIORITY 5195
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY KAGACHI PRIORITY 5400
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1022
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1914
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY USNATO PRIORITY 2005
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 7456
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 3283
RUHRO/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 1356
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY 2485
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY HONOLULU PRIORITY
RUHRO/AMEMBASSY CINCINNATI PRIORITY

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 PAPER CODE

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7. DURING A SEPTEMBER 17 SUBJECTS CALL ON ABDEL RAHIM KARAKAL, A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED TARAKI TO HAVANA AND MOSCOW, THE ARIA COMMENTED THAT WESTERN DIPLOMATS HAD FOUND TARAKI HAPPY AND APPARENTLY HEALTHY UPON HIS RETURN TO KAFUL SEPTEMBER 11. KARAKAL OBSERVED THAT TARAKI HAD NOT APPEARED TO BE HEALTHY, BUT THAT HE HAD SUFFERED SOME HEALTH PROBLEMS DURING THE TRIP. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT TARAKI HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A PHYSICIAN. KARAKAL IMPLIES THAT HE WOULD BE LEARNING MORE ABOUT TARAKI'S HEALTH SITUATION IN DUE COURSE -- PERHAPS EVEN DURING TOMORROW'S SPEECH BY ARIA. THE QUESTION IS FURTHERING MOOT, HOWEVER, INASMUCH AS THE PICTURES OF TARAKI THAT HAD BEEN SHOWN KAFUL HAD ALL DISAPPEARED. THE DE FACTO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ARIA HAS DISPLAYED SINCE THE REVOLUTION HAS NOT BECOME DE JURE. PEOPLE ASK WHETHER ARIA, "THE AFGHAN STALIN," WILL PERMIT EVEN THE MENTION OF THE "GREAT GENIUS LEADER" TO ENDURE.

8. THE SOVIET REACTION AT KABUL IS INDICATED IN THE EMBASSY'S EARLIER REPORT (46 (KABUL 6574)). IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THE SOVIET EMBASSY AT KABUL WAS PRIVY TO AMIN'S ALTI-KATAHJAR MOVE BEFORE IT WAS LAUNCHED. FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI -- IF THIS SURMISE IS TRUE, THE SOVIETS HAD, IN THE SHORT RUN, NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO RIDE OUT THE FAST-BREAKING CHAIN OF EVENTS. THE KABUL PRESS REPORTED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ALEXANDER M. PUKANOV CALLED ON AMIN AT 1007 ON SEPTEMBER 15. ONE OF OUR SOURCES TOLD US THAT THAT MEETING LASTED UNTIL NOON. GENERAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE RISING LEADER AND HIS VITAL SOVIET SUPPORTERS WERE PRESUMABLY REACHED AT THAT SESSION.

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A. J. WHITE